Numb. 52.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *July* 19, to Thursday *July* 26, 1711.

Sed nos immenſum ſpatiis confecimus æquor,
Et jam tempus equûm fumantia ſolvere colla.

NOW that I have compleated the Number of my Papers, and, for the ſpace of a Year, done my Country what Service lay in the Power of an honeſt, though conceal'd Pen; I ſhall take my leave of the Town, with particular Thanks for its Favour; and ſome acknowledgment to the *Medley*, for ſo conſtantly explaining what he thought my Meaning in any dark Alluſions, or Allegories; and retire my ſelf from the Fatigue of Politicks and State-Reflections, till ſome more urgent Occaſion again calls forth my Endeavours.

It is very difficult, in an intereſted World, for any one to be thought free from thoſe Views that influence others: There are ſo few Perſons content to ſacrifice their own Good to that of the Publick, that I do not wonder to have a wrong Interpretation put upon my Labours, and my Self, tho' entirely otherwiſe, accus'd as directing them to ſome mercinary End, and full of the deſire of making my Fortune, by application to the *Prevailing Party*: But let ſuch who are my Accuſers, remember, that this Paper was begun whilſt yet the *Late Miniſtry* were at the Helm, and nothing but their Miſmanagement to prognoſticate their Loſs of Power.

To thoſe who have complained, That my Writings were not always equal, the Spirit the ſame, nor the Matter ſo entertaining; let ſuch begin to conſider, my Buſineſs was to *Inſtruct*, I would not deſcend to *Divert*: I was neither a *Plautus*, nor a *Moliere*; I did not ſo much as pretend to *Wit*, much leſs *Buffoonry*: I went not in purſuit of a Laugh, but confined my ſelf to one Subject, and that a very ſerious one. How extreme difficult it is to ſucceed often upon the like Topick, I leave to the conſideration of the Judicious; who know how hard it is to vary the ſame Diſcourſe, and admit of frequent repetition, without being cloy'd; with which I have no reaſon to tax my Readers, ſince the Printer tells me, the Sale of my Paper is not at all diminiſhed, nor its Reputation fallen: Which, I muſt confeſs, were Temptation enough for me to continue it, had I had mercenary Views, or were not the End I propoſed already anſwered; which makes me chooſe, though perhaps not quite ſo civilly, to riſe of my ſelf and leave my Gueſts with an Appetite for more, rather than ſtay till they ſhould call to take away.

And notwithſtanding the Charge that hath ſo often been brought againſt me, with an intent to wound *Great Men* through my Side, of my being a contemptible Hireling, and a little mercenary Fellow, without Probity or Principles; one whoſe Actions were directed by others, from whence the Machine talk'd and mov'd, as conducted by Higher Hands: I ſolemnly declare, I am ſtill as much unknown to the Leaders of our own Party, as to the others; and very likely to remain ſo, as long as I pleaſe my ſelf, notwithſtanding the wiſe Remarks of the *Obſervator*, and the Gueſſes made by the judicious *Medley*.

Among the many Pretenders in this Town, you can hardly produce me One, who will not undertake to diſcover and point out the difference of Style, and manner of Thinking, peculiar to the ſeveral Men of Wit: This Pamphlet is certainly from ſuch a Hand; they know his Manner perfectly: That Paper of Verſes is infallibly of ſuch a Poet, no Man in *England* could write it but he; and this ſometimes even upon the firſt Eſſay of an Author. I, among the reſt, uſed to determine formerly at the ſame rate; but ſhall be more cautious for the future, having ſeen the World and my ſelf ſo often and ſo wretchedly miſtaken. How many Fathers hath this Paper of mine been aſcribed to? Among all the Men of Wit, who are in the Intereſt of the preſent Miniſtry, I know not one who hath eſcaped ſome Report or Suſpicion of being the Author. The *Medley* hath gueſs'd round; and from his Skill in that part of Learning, called *Dog's-Logick*, thought he would infallibly hit upon it at laſt. Thus he hath done what he would have us think is an Injury to ſeveral innocent Perſons; and if the *Examiner* be a ſtupid, falſe, and ſlanderous Paper, as he Weekly affirms, I think he is bound in Conſcience and common Juſtice, to repair the Injury he hath done to the Reputation of thoſe Worthy Perſons he hath falſly entitled it to, and who have never given him the leaſt Provocation for any ſuch Calumny.

The judicious Reader cannot but obſerve how weak that Cauſe muſt be, which the joint Endeavours of their Party have not been able to defend, againſt an unknown Perſon, who hath had nothing but *Naked Truth* to oppoſe to whole Armies of complicated Falſhoods and Malice: Yet, ſupported by the goodneſs of the Cauſe, I have waded through Seas of Scurrility, without being Polluted by any of that Filth they have inceſſantly caſt at me. I have neither miſrepreſented Perſons nor Things; nay, out of Tenderneſs, have often forborn to ſhow their weakeſt Side. I appeal to all impartial Men, whether Time have not diſcover'd more Abuſes in the Management of the late Miniſtry, than the *Examiner* could expoſe? The Facts are now ſo obvious and uncontroverted, that I preſume there is no need of a *Monitor* to point out thoſe Things, to which every Man is become capable of directing himſelf.

Of all the doubtful Steps that I have taken in the Conduct of this Deſign, there is none for which I ſo much blame my ſelf, as firſt deſcending to take Notice and talk to thoſe wretched Adverſaries that have Weekly Fought againſt me; it was putting my ſelf upon a level with ſuch, whoſe Deſigns and mine were entirely oppoſite: I was fired by the Love of my Country, and that noble Ardour which conducts us through a thouſand Difficulties in the purſuit of Juſtice: My Attempt was to diſcover Abuſes, theirs to conceal them; I purſued Truth, they openly adhered to Falſhood; my Pen was valu'd for its Sincerity, theirs deſpiſed for Diſingenuity; and yet I was ſo weak to enter the Liſts, meerly to ſatisfy thoſe Friends who became uneaſy at their not being oppoſed, and could not account for my Neglect: A Fault many have been guilty of, in conſideration of others, though againſt a Man's better Senſe and Reaſoning: As I could inſtance in ſeveral Things, and particularly in one Example out of *Plutarch*, if the Compariſon may not be thought too great a Preſumption: It is that of *Pompey* the Great, who ventur'd a Battle with *Ceſar*, when it was not his Intereſt, *meerly becauſe he was a Man of that Honour and Modeſty, he could not bear a Reproach; neither would be diſoblige his Friends, but broke his own Meaſures, and forſook his prudent Reſolutions, to follow their vain Hope and Deſire.* How much more commendable was the

the Constancy of *Phocion*, who when the *Athenians* urged him at an unseasonable time to fall upon the Enemy, peremptorily refused; and being upbraided by them with Cowardice and Pusilanimity, told them, *Gentlemen, we understand one another very well, You cannot make me Valiant at this time, nor I You Wise.*

But it is time to have done with such worthless Combatants; if I have not foiled them, I am certain they have not hurt me, no otherwise than in my own Opinion, for attempting to ingage them. I shall conclude with observing the Beauty of that Prospect which lies before me, and for which I Congratulate all my Country-men; The Security to our Religion and happy Constitution, under our most Pious QUEEN, Her Excellent Parliament, and Able Ministry, which to speak of one by one, would be a Volume, not a Sheet: Methinks I behold the Younger *Cato* in Mr. *St. J——n*; All that Love for His Country, that Contempt of Danger, and Greatness of Soul, of whom it is said, *'Twas not for Honour or Riches, nor rashly, or by chance, that He engaged Himself in the Affairs of State; but He undertooke the Service of the Publick, as the proper Business of an honest Man; and therefore He thought Himself obliged to be as diligent for the Good of That, as a Bee for the Preservation of her Hive.*

By our well-governed Strength at Home, we are now beginning to be truly formidable to our Enemies abroad: *France* was never so busie in searching Expedients that may incline towards a Peace; they find it is become their Interest to be sincere; nothing but the unexpected Death of the Emperor, and that distracted State of Northern Affairs, which at this time threatens a Breach in the Confederacy, and the Seeds of which Mischief have been long sown, could prevent our finding the speedy Effects of it. All but those who are wilfully blind, and bigotted to a Party, plainly see the Advantage of the Change that hath been made; though considering the Circumstances of a tedious War, I am so far willing to comply with some Gentlemen, as to admit there was a Hazard in it, inasmuch as a *Civil War is worse than any Tyranny*: From whence I take leave to hope, we shall not easily repeat the Danger; and since all Changes are not good, let us Change no more.

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NOTE, That whereas there was a ridiculous Advertisement put in the Daily Courant last Saturday, relating to Gowns sold at Baker's Coffee-house; these are to Certify, That I Henry Bright (as is well known to several Gentlemen) was the first Person that Sold Gowns at the said Bakers Coffee-house, tho' it is impudently affirm'd to the contrary. Witness my Hand. Henry Bright.

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